

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

SAM-01 SAB-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 OMB-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH 9\*(INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 4,  
1976:

Q. YESTERDAY, IN DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS SITUA-  
TION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS SAYING THAT INTENSIVE CON-  
SULTATIONS HAVE BEGUN WITH THE HILL -- AND WAS ALSO SAYING  
THAT SADAT'S POLICIES OF MODERATION AGAINST OUTSIDE  
PRESSURES, ARE DESERVING OF SUPPORT.

A. YES.

Q. COULD YOU AMPLIFY WHAT OUTSIDE PRESSURES SADAT IS  
FEELING THESE DAYS?  
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A. I DO NOT THINK WE WANT TO IDENTIFY OR SPECIFY WHAT  
THESE PRESSURES ARE. OBVIOUSLY, BY INFERENCE, FROM WHAT  
ADMINISTRATION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING, IT IS THOSE  
PRESSURES OPPOSING HIS POLICIES OF MODERATION.

Q. ARE THEY INTERNAL, OR EXTERNAL, OR BOTH?

A. I WOULD DESCRIBE THEM AS OUTSIDE.

Q. AND THE ISRAELI EMBASSY ISSUED A STATEMENT -- AND I  
AM TRYING TO FIND IT HERE --

IT SAID THAT "A HIGHER AUTHORITY IN THE STATE DEPART-

MENT HAD INDICATED TO US THE ONLY ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE SIX, C-130S."

A. YES.

Q. ARE THEY CORRECT THAT THOSE ARE THE ONLY ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION?

A. I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION THIS MORNING ON THE HILL, AND HE SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WHEN HE WAS HERE EARLIER, THAT THIS WAS THE ITEM THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING.

IN ANY CASE, AS I HAD SAID YESTERDAY WHEN A NUMBER OF YOU ASKED ME, THESE ARE THE ONLY ITEMS, SPECIFIC ITEMS, THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING NOW, AND ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS.

Q. SO THAT WHEN WE HAVE BEGUN THIS --

YOU DON'T ANTICIPATE, OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T ANTICIPATE THE SALE TO EGYPT OF ANY DEFENSIVE ARMS, ANY MILITARY ARMS BEYOND SIX C-L30 TRANSPORT PLANES AND SPARE PARTS. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. SPECIFICALLY, THAT IS ALL WE ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING. WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS -- AGAIN, UNCLASSIFIED

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AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED THIS MORNING -- THE WHOLE GENERAL PROBLEM OF EGYPT'S DECISION TO INTERRUPT ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR MILITARY SUPPLY AND ITS INTEREST IN OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US.

BUT THIS IS IN A MORE GENERAL WAY. AND AGAIN, I BELIEVE I HEARD CORRECTLY THAT THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED THIS QUESTION. HE ALSO SAID THAT ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE OFF IN THE FUTURE IF AT ALL. AND IN ANY EVENT, ANYTHING BEYOND C-130S AND INDEED INCLUDING THE C-130S WOULD BE SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

Q. BUT YOU ARE NOT RULING OUT FUTURE MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT, ARE YOU?

A. NO.

WHAT I AM EMPHASIZING IS THAT THE ONLY ITEMS THAT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION NOW, ARE THE SIX C-130S.

Q. WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR THEM?

A. PARDON ME?

Q. WHO WILL PAY FOR THE PLANES?

A. EGYPT WOULD PAY FOR THEM. IT WOULD BE UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT.

Q. I UNDERSTOOD FROM LISTENING IN DOWN HERE TO WHAT THE SECRETARY WAS SAYING ON THE HILL, THE IMPLICATION THERE CLEARLY WAS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD PRESENTED TO CONGRESS A BASIS FOR A MUCH BROADER SERIES OF REQUESTS AND THAT THIS WAS THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION THE ADMINISTRATION WAS LAYING, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT SUBSEQUENTLY IT DID ANTICIPATE MAKING FURTHER REQUESTS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

IS THAT NOT CORRECT?

A. YES, I THINK THAT IS A FAIR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAID.

BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE ONLY ITEMS THAT ARE BEING CONSIDERED ARE THE SIX C-130S. THE OTHER PART OF OUR CONSULTATION HAS BEEN TO SHARE WITH THE CONGRESS OUR CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF WHAT IS A SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS I SAID EARLIER IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:

ON THE ONE HAND, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS INTERRUPTED HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION IN MILITARY AS WELL AS IN OTHER FIELDS. AND HE HAS INDICATED TO US, BOTH TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, OF HIS INTEREST IN OBTAINING SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OR THE ADMINISTRATION IN ANY WAY NOW HAVE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OTHER MILITARY ITEMS THAT EGYPT HAS REQUESTED OR THAT EGYPT WOULD LIKE?

A. NO, IT HAS NOT MADE THAT APPROACH -- THE APPROACH HAS NOT BEEN THAT THERE ARE ANY OTHER SPECIFIC ITEMS. THE ONLY SPECIFIC ITEMS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, ARE THE SIX C-130S AS I THINK THE SECRETARY MADE CLEAR THIS MORNING.

Q. NO, BUT THE "SPECIFIC ITEM" -- THESE ARE ACTUALLY THE ITEMS WHICH ARE UNDER DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESS.

A. YES, .

Q. I AM ASKING WHETHER IN THOSE AREAS WHERE YOU HAVE NOT GONE PUBLIC, ARE THERE OTHER ITEMS BEING CONSIDERED?

A. NO, THERE ARE NO OTHER ITEMS OTHER THAN THE C-130S.

Q. BOB, THE SECRETARY SAID ON THE HILL, THAT HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST OTHER THAN THE C-130 FOR A FEW MONTHS.

A. DIDN'T HE SAY FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS?

Q. NO.  
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Q. OR, NEXT FEW MONTHS.

A. WELL, ALL RIGHT.

Q. -- IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS -- AND OBVIOUSLY THE ADMINISTRATION KNOWS WHAT IT WANTS TO FOLLOW UP ON.

A. I THINK THAT FIRST, WE HAVE TO SEE THE RESULTS OF THE PRESENT CONSULTATIONS ON THE C-130S. WE WILL HAVE TO ANALYZE THE VERY BROAD CONSULTATIONS WE WILL HAVE HAD ON THIS WHOLE DISCUSSION AND SHARE WITH THE CONGRESS OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS QUESTION.

AND THEN IT WILL GO FROM THERE.

Q. I'M SORRY -- WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY, THEN, YOUR RESTRAINT ON SPECIFYING OTHER ITEMS IS BASED LARGELY ON YOUR UNCERTAINTY HOW CONGRESS WILL REACT TO THE SALE OF SOMETHING BEYOND C-130S TO EGYPT?

A. I THINK THAT IS ONE WAY OF SAYING IT.

OUR WAY OF SAYING IT IS THAT BEFORE WE DID ANYTHING, WE WANTED TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS AND WE WANTED TO SEE HOW THEY FELT ABOUT IT. INDEED, THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT MOVING AHEAD ON THE C-130S UNTIL IT HAS HAD THESE CONSULTATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF DETERMINATION, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOT AS YET BEEN SENT UP.

Q. BUT SURELY, WHEN YOU CONSULT WITH CONGRESS, DON'T YOU FILL IN THE SPACES? DON'T YOU SAY:

"HOW DO YOU FOLKS FEEL ABOUT SUPPLYING THEM WITH HAWKS?" OR "HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ANTI-TANK WEAPONS?"

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN ONE OF THOSE BRIEFING THE CONGRESS, BUT THAT IS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OR THE WAY THE CONSULTATIONS HAVE UNFOLDED.  
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Q. IS THERE NO PLAN FOR THE TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN OFFICERS IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT. THAT MAY BE SOMETHING THAT WAS DISCUSSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE C-130S BUT I DO NOT HAVE THAT SPECIFICALLY.

Q. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THIS. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI STATEMENT?

A. NOT BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID WHEN HE WAS ASKED THIS MORNING.

Q. BOB, IF I CAN GO BACK TO THE EGYPTIAN ARMS FOR A MOMENT -- YOU SPOKE OF SADAT INTERRUPTING HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.

A. YES.

Q. INTERRUPTING USUALLY MEANS SOME EXPECTATION THAT IT WILL BE RESUMED SOMEDAY. IS THAT JUST A LOOSE WORD?

OR HAS SADAT TOLD US THAT THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN HE WILL GO BACK TO MOSCOW AS HE MANEUVERS BETWEEN THESE TWO MAJOR POWERS FOR ARMS?

A. NO. ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING IT: HE HAS SHOWN US HIS DESIRE TO END EGYPTIAN DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET MILITARY.

Q. THEN IT'S MORE THAN INTERRUPT. IT'S TO END?

A. HE HAS SHOWN A DESIRE TO END IT.

Q. I SEE.

A. IN MILITARY AS WELL AS IN OTHER FIELDS.

Q. ON THE SALE OF THE SIX C-130S, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPECT CONGRESS TO APPROVE?

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A. I DO NOT WANT TO PREJUDGE THE CONSULTATIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING AND ARE CONTINUING.

Q. I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE QUESTION OF THE C-130S.

A. YES.

Q. YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT CONSULTATIONS GOING ON WITH CONGRESS.

A. RIGHT.

Q. I BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING SAID THAT THE REQUEST HAS ACTUALLY BEEN SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS.

A. I THINK HE REALLY WAS SPEAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONSULTATIONS, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION HAS NOT GONE FORWARD.

Q. YOU ARE CERTAIN ABOUT THAT?

A. YES.

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